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LETTER DATED 29 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad on 25 May 1998 concerning implementation by Mali of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction adopted in Oslo on 18 September 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Moctar OUANE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15884 (E) 090698 090698

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Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad on 25 May 1998

As part of its implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, Mali has on this day, 25 May 1998, destroyed its national army's stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

It should be noted that the Malian army has never used these arms in any conflict.

Member States are obliged by article 4 of the Convention, which is both an instrument for disarmament and a humanitarian act, to destroy all stocks of anti-personnel mines.

In addition to the total ban on the use, production and transfer of landmines, the Convention further provides for technical cooperation, assistance for victims, the social rehabilitation of victims, and transparency measures.

The Convention, which was the outcome of the process begun at the Ottawa Conference, was signed on behalf of the Malian Government on 3 December 1997 by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Malians Abroad. Mali ratified the Convention on 10 April 1998, depositing the instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

This step taken by Mali, on the day that commemorates the creation of the Organization of African Unity, is consistent with the policy of micro-disarmament favoured by the highest authorities in the Third Republic.

It is also in keeping with our country's undertakings towards the Organization of African Unity, namely to make Africa a zone free of landmines.

Mali, which is deeply attached to the values of humanism and solidarity, once again shows evidence of the action it takes to safeguard peace and security.

Furthermore, it issues a pressing appeal to all States to support the Ottawa process.